

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 20, 2001 LB 640

would facilitate that with their counties and take the lead in helping counties to get that plan process done. That was supported by the county officials, and as the person who carried the final version of the bill had no...I had no objection from any county to doing that. That came from the counties. It was...it was a bottom-up process instead of a top-down process, and so I believe it is 2005 but I put my light on, no, I didn't, but I am putting my light on and I will come back to you with that exact language, and we did that last year as part of LB 1167. Now the...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Brown on the Beutler amendment to the committee amendments, followed by Senators Wehrbein, Thompson and Beutler. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'll...I will just be brief. I agree with Senator Thompson. I think that this bill is critical. I think that we need to advance it and I think that we need to look at some of the details in discussion. I believe that there is a great deal of difference between a grant program that directly funds programs, even if those grants are forwarded by the county, and an aid program to the county for them to develop their programs and to develop their plans. And so that's...that's the difference that I see, but the critical piece about this is that this is...this is a bill that has been...we've been tinkering with for a long time, and it is...it is the version that everybody has been able to agree on from LB 562 from last year, which we were not able to do, and so the counties, Lancaster County and Douglas County and the county association, support this. The Governor's Office supports it and everybody has been able to come together and figure out a way that everyone can live with in terms of how this aid program would be managed. And I think it's...it's a fair system. It's a fair compromise and I think it is something that we need to do, not only for...for the youth in...that we need to be serving, which absolutely is critical, but also for the counties to be able to do what they need to do to make sure that they have the programs for youth and especially those community-based programs, which they are going to need increasingly. Thank you.